

TAYLER EARL: Hello. My name is Tayler Earl, and I work at Bowie Resource Skyline Mine. I want to talk about the effects nationally and statewide that a coal leasing moratorium could have. I am sure to no one's surprise Americans consume a lot of electricity. Based on recent numbers, we're second to only China on electrical consumption with China having a population three and a half times the size of ours. Every major advancement our country has had in the last two decades has had one thing in common, it took electricity. In this day and age electricity is the lifeblood of our country. It affects every part of life as we know it whether directly or indirectly and will never go away. We are past the point of being able to decrease our energy consumption. In fact, worldwide energy consumption is projected for the U.S. Energy Information Administration, or EIA, to grow 48 percent by 2040. What we need in this country are more energy sources, not less. Based on more information from the EIA, the average price of electricity for a residential user has gone up more than 20 percent since 2006. In that same time, the use of coal for electricity in America has gone down at almost the exact same rate. I don't believe this is a coincidence. In comparison the EIA has Utah using coal for 76 percent of electricity generation in the state, and according to the EIA, Utah has the tenth lowest average electricity price in the nation. Forbes magazine has ranked Utah as the number one state to do business in five of the last six years. The state has a very pro-business climate and companies benefit from commercial energy costs that are 23 percent below the national average and fourth lowest in the U.S. Some of the biggest outdoor companies in the world that oppose coal such as Black Diamond, Petzl, Rossignol, and Salomon have corporate offices here that all benefit from the cheap cost of doing business in Utah. Limiting coal's ability to provide inexpensive power to our state and country would not only be hurting us by raising our monthly power billing but would force companies to relocate with states and countries with cheaper energy costs taking jobs away from not only the people that work at those companies but everyone that works at coal mines, coal-fired power plants, trucking companies, and every other industry that supports them. To secure a bright future, our country needs to take advantage of every energy source we have, not limit and hinder the ones already in place. Thank you.